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The Class Fight

BY A. T. HARVEY

Those friends of labor who blossom like the wild rose in June, their friendship like its bloom lasts but a few days. Such a friend was congressman Foerderer of whom a brother exploiter in congress said: "He was an employer on such fraternal terms with his employees that strikes in his establishment were impossible. The unsophisticated reader would be prone to believe that Foerderer must have been a miracle of philanthropy among a class of robbers. But a Socialist in the Erie People discovers the following tribute to the paragon by the Leather Workers Union of Philadelphia. "Robert H. Foerderer set himself, like that fowl beast that devours his own kind, to prey upon his fellow workers with a ferocity of greed fair! appalling. That incubus of labor, Robert H. Foerderer, without better qualifications than greed and gall, has blossomed into a multi-millionaire. Now we, the Leather Workers' union, have for many years been cognizant of Foerderer's malevolent persecution of labor. We who have long felt the goad of this heartless employer, denounce him as the foe of organized labor. We denounce him, because having crawled into power by exploitation of the brain and brawn of better men, he uses his ill gotten wealth to still further despoil and impoverish those whose wearying labor made his present position possible."

The members of the union were on strike in an effort to obtain living wages. Congressman Bates so truthfully tells that Foerderer never had a strike in his works, but then capitalists are forced to lie in order to deceive the workmen into voting them into power.

Ben Hanford the Socialist orator of New York met Attorney Davenport of the manufacturers association in a debate at the Cooper Union Hall on April 22. Hanford opened the debate and eloquently described the infamies of the present system pointing out the terrible wrongs the working class suffer and the appalling destruction of life and honor among the child slaves of our mills and factories. Unable to deny the allegations, Davenport quoted Jesus and the ten commandments, endeavoring to show that Socialism would establish a system of wives in common and also destroy the inviolability of property. His statement that children would be reared differently under Socialism, brought Hanford's description to the minds of the audience and they cheered at the echo. Davenport finally asked who would clean sewers under Socialism. Hanford followed and affirmed his belief in the commandment "Thou shalt not steal;" he pointed out the real thieves, the capitalists, and in reply to the dirty work question, he said that smart lawyers were hired to do the dirtiest work now and he was willing to admit that his opponent was one of the smartest. The apologist for the capitalist system invariably refrains from attempting to answer any of the real principles of the Socialist philosophy. Like Davenport they stoop to sophistry in the effort to deceive the audience. The capitalists will soon learn that their hired mental prostitutes cannot defeat the educated revolutionary Socialist in debate. Bull pens, spies, lockouts, booze and boodle are the only weapons they can use. To the working class belong the weapons of logic, justice and right.

Never could be panics under a republican administration. Yet there have been thousands of men discharged in all the manufacturing industries during the past six months. The following item from the Great Falls Leader illustrates that the brand of prosperity we are sampling today is of a similar nature to that common in 1894. Pawtucket, R. I., April 23.—The five cotton thread mills in this city owned by the J. & P. Coates company, limited, today went on a schedule of five days a week. The

plant employs 3,000 hands. About 7,000 mill operators in this state are working on short time schedules, owing to the unfavorable conditions. Panics do not come because certain administrations are in power, but because the people who produce the wealth cannot buy it back for consumption, receiving but 17 per cent of the wealth produced as wages, or money for raw material it is impossible for them to consume the remaining portion, no matter how much they might desire to do so. To get rid of this surplus capitalists are forced to seek a foreign market, hence our war of conquest in the Philippines, England's in South Africa and the Russia-Japanese conflict in Asia. There is but the one solution of the economic situation and that is to adopt the Socialist plan, so that every man will receive the full product for his labor. This will make panics impossible by removing the cause. The idle millions who tramp America today in search of employment will be placed to work thus making it possible to greatly reduce the hours of labor for every individual. The good things of life resulting from their toil will be for the use of every child or man, and not to amass millions for a few.

We are informed, that the police cleared the streets of Budapest to help the capitalists win the strike which was declared by the Railroad unions. In another column of the same paper the public is told that twenty-nine more striking miners were run out of Colorado by the soldiers of Peadody. Capitalism is the real ruling power everywhere, no matter whether the nominal head of the state is called the Emperor or President; the soldiers and police are always at the call of the rich to crush the poor into submission when ever they strike to obtain a little more of the wealth they create. Those who control the things people must use to live, will always and ever be the real rulers of nations therefore, it follows if the people are to be free they must themselves absolutely own the machinery of production. Capitalism has almost outlived its usefulness to humanity as the constantly recurring panics, hunger, privations, want and forced depravity of hosts of people testify. The conflict between warring classes is today far greater than the battles of the slave lord and the northern capitalist in the years immediately preceding the rebellion of 1861. This condition cannot, must not, and shall not last. Let us hope that the intelligent American people will study, and apply the system that offers a peaceful solution, Socialism.

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The God Of Gold

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A bird of prey, and a woman's bust,
And the lying legend, "In God we Trust."

Hard and yellow, heavy and cold,
Defiled by vices manifold
That have used it for lure and snare and price;
Won with marked cards and with loaded dice;
Stained with lewdness and women's shame;
Sordid bribe for a man's fair name;
Blurred with blood and with children's tears;
Foul with sweat through the toil-wrung years;
Blackened with dust from the coal-pit's mouth;
Cankered with wrong—east, west, north, south;
Tainted with shackle of serf and slave;
Fetid with mould from the drunkard's grave;
Accomplice of murder, and crime's best tool;
Joy of the miser, and pride of the fool;
Foe of truth, and the lie's ally;
Pay of traitor and thrice-damned spy;
Dole of the spoiler to Charity—
Theft's insult of alms to humanity.
Wage of the harlot; loot of the thief;
Promoter of crimes that pass belief;
Hire of slanderer, forger, cheat;
Spoil of a stab in the midnight street;
Fee for the unjust law's decree;
Guerdon of fraud and hypocrisy;
Salvage of wrecks on a sea of wrong—
The loss of the weak, the gain of the strong.
Base sponser of perjury;
Prop of false pride and luxury;
Maker of envy, spite and spleen;
Creator of book and play obscene;
Breeder of every breach of trust;
Pander to war and to fierce blood-lust,
To the lust of the eye and the lust of gold
That hardens men's hearts and turns them cold;
Despoiler of labor, menace of life,
Gold-God of cruelty, hatred, strife.

Bow, O Fool, as thou passest by!
This is the God we have set on high
"Beneath the dome of the Union sky;"
This is the Thing to which we pray,
This is our Golden Calf to-day,
This is the Deity we obey.
Down on thy knees to the Dollar-God!
He owns the water, the trees, the sod,
The food, the clothing, the oil, the coal—
Owns thee, body, estate and soul;
Holds existence in deed of fee—
Controller of life and destiny.
Genuflex, Fool, to the God of Pelf,
Lord God of the Great I Am—of Self!

His heaven wealth; financial loss, his hell;
His litany a stock that's watered well;
His incense, interest; his book of prayer,
Bond, mortgage, scrip, certificate and share;
His temple the exchange; his altar-stones,
Discount, collateral, secured call-loans;
His priests are usurers; his creed, "Combine;"
His sacred symbol is the dollar-sign;
His bible, business; and his only son
Is Profit—out of work by others done.
His one commandment, "Do, and do thy worst,
Lest, by ill chance, thy neighbor do thee first.
Prey without ceasing. Honor, love, forget,
But take thy lawful pound of flesh for lawful debt.
Steer close and shrewdly clear of prison gate,
And put an S in front of peculate.
By trust and franchise mulct—let none go free—
And worship thou none other god save me."

PROPHECY.

Hard and yellow, heavy and cold,
Defiled by vices manifold
A fallen idol lies on the sod,
And a freed race strides o'er its former god;
Onward and upward: no glance to fling
Down at the base and pitiful thing
That once had been bane and bar and ban,
Barring man's heart to his fellow-man;
God of oppression, of greed, of pelf,
Lord God of The Great I Am—of Self

For,—Listen!—till money be dead and dumb,
The race shall ne'er to its birthright come;
The rule of gold shall control man's fate,
And the golden rule be violate;
Might shall be crowned; Brawn prey of Brain;
And Wrong, triumphant, rivet mankind's chain.
The rich and poor, alike, shall bear gold's curse;
Robber and robbed from out the common purse,
The law of talons be the Nation's lot.
Justice forgetting, and by love forgot.

But onward and upward the race shall go,
Over its false, foul god laid low;
Onward and upward toward the goal,
Equal rights for each human soul.
Onward to plenty and joy and peace,
Rejoicing in poverty's surcease;
Upward where kindness and duty call—
Each for the other and all for all—
To the shining peaks of the highest good,
To the love and splendor of brotherhood,
In glorious friendship and amity,
Hand in hand to equality.

Wilshire's Magazine

BAD BLOOD

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